

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----- 037168

P R 281428Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2505

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5737

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US SY

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN POSSIBLE FORD-ASAD MEETING

1. CAIRO PRESS, APRIL 27, CARRIED WASHINGTON AP STORY INDICATING WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAD ANNOUNCED PREVIOUS DAY POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND ASAD. ACCORDING PRESS, "INFORMED SOURCES" STATED SUCH A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH. PRESS ALSO REPORTED SENATOR JAVIT'S STATEMENT, ON HIS RETURN FROM ME, THAT ASAD READY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD ASAP.

2. AT 9:30 YESTERDAY MORNING FAHMY TELEPHONED TO ASK ABOUT ABOVE PRESS REPORT. I TOLD HIM IT WAS AN INCORRECT VERSION OF WHAT WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN CARLSON HAD SAID. HE ASKED FOR TEXT. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH FAHMY, I GAVE HIM THE PERTINENT PARAGRAPH AS GIVEN IN USIA NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA WIRELESS FILE, NO 81, MON., APRIL 26. FAHMY NOTED THAT, WHILE NO SPECIFIC PLANS FOR MEETING EXIST AT PRESENT TIME, WE ARE LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING.

3. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT, AS HE KNEW FROM PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSIONS, PRESIDENT FORD HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY IN

PRINCIPLE TO MEET PRESIDENT ASAD IF THE LATTER SO
DESIRES. THUS, THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN THE POSITION
EXPRESSED BY THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SPOKESMAN. FAHMY
DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT, BUT CLEARLY HAD SOME MISGIVINGS
ABOUT ANY EARLY MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND
ASAD.

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS
REMAIN STRONG. THEY INEVITABLY WORRY THAT ANY
US PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ASAD'S IMPORTANCE WILL, IN
ARAB EYES, SOMEHOW ENDORSE CLAIMS SYRIANS ARE STILL
ACTIVELY SPREADING ABOUT SADAT'S BETRAYAL OF ARAB CAUSE
BY SIGNING SINAI II.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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NNN

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